



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

AGREEMENTS REACHED IN ICE ASSISTED CASE IN WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

RALEIGH—Frank D. Whitney, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina and Jeff Jordan, Assistant Special-in-Charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in North Carolina yesterday announced the filing of a Criminal Information against John H. Carrington.

The one count Criminal Information charges Carrington, the former President/CEO of SIRCHIE FINGERPRINT LABORATORIES, INC with exporting crime control equipment to the People's Republic of China, in an amount in excess of 1.2 million dollars without having first obtained authorization from the United States Department of Commerce.

In April 2004, a joint investigation by ICE special agents, and agents from the Department of Commerce (DOC), Office of Export Enforcement (OEE), determined SIRCHIE and CARRINGTON exported fingerprinting powders, dyes and inks, fingerprint analyzers, and mobile crime scene laboratories to the People's Republic of China without the required DOC licenses.

The U.S. Department of Commerce has reached agreements with Carrington and Sirchie Fingerprinting Labs, INC., a closely held corporation located in Youngsville, North Carolina. Carrington's export privileges have been suspended for a period of five years. Sirchie Fingerprinting Labs has agreed to pay civil penalties of \$400,000.00 for unauthorized exportation and submit to suspended denial of their export privileges for a period of five years.

"Individuals and companies who export licensable equipment from the United States in violation of United States export laws pose a serious threat to our national security. ICE and its law enforcement partners will continue to be vigilant for such blatant offenses," said Albert Fitchett, Jr., ICE resident agent-in-charge in Wilmington.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James A. Candelmo and Assistant United States Attorney John S. Bowler prosecuted the case for the United States.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.